

1 I claim:

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3 1. An apparatus for forming glass coiled tubes from a source of glass from which a
4 molten glass thread is drawn, comprised of:

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13 a. A shaping mandrel having a first end and an opposing second end, said
14 mandrel having a desired shape for receiving around it the molten glass thread such
15 that when the thread is drawn about the desired shape, a formed coil is developed that
16 essentially takes a desired shape from the shaping mandrel;
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18 b. A block for moving the formed coil in a direction towards the second end in
19 response to additional molten glass thread drawn to the coil;
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21 c. Attachment means for first engaging the molten glass thread;
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23 d. Variable rotating means for rotating the attachment means.

24 2. An apparatus for forming glass coiled tubes from a source of glass from which a
molten glass thread is drawn, comprised of:

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13 a. A shaping mandrel having a first end and an opposing second end, said
14 mandrel having a desired shape for receiving around it the molten glass thread such
15 that when the thread is drawn about the desired shape, a formed coil is developed that
16 essentially takes a desired shape from the shaping mandrel;
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18 b. A block for redirecting the formed coil at a point on the blade defining a
19 lateral drive point so as to cause the formed coil to move towards the mandrel second
20 end, and where the block is positioned in a manner such that the lateral drive point
21 is positioned between the second end of the mandrel and the direction from which the
22 molten glass thread is fed. With respect to the shaping mandrel so as to allow the
23 molten glass thread fed from a direction behind the lateral drive point, nearest the
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1 mandrel first end.

2 c. Attachment means for first engaging the molten glass thread;

3 d. Variable rotating means for rotating the attachment means.

4 3. The glass forming apparatus in Claim 1 having:

5 a. An elongated stabilizing bar of sufficient length to support the desired length
6 of the formed glass coil, said stabilizing bar having a first end adjacent to the
7 second end of the mandrel and having a second end opposing the first end.

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10 4. The glass coil forming apparatus in Claim 3 wherein the attachment means is slidably
11 engaged with the stabilizing bar.

12 5. The glass coil forming apparatus in Claim 4 wherein the hook means has tension
13 adjusting means thereon to vary the tension between the attachment means and the stabilizing bar.

14 6. The glass coil forming apparatus in Claim 1 having means for adjusting the resistance
15 to the movement of the formed coil.

16 7. The glass coil forming apparatus in Claim 2 wherein the block has an essentially
17 planar face upon which the lateral drive point exists and wherein the block planar face is angled with
18 respect to the direction of the movement of formed glass coil.

19 8. The glass coil forming apparatus in Claim 1 wherein the block has an opening
20 through which the shaping mandrel protrudes.

21 9. The glass coil forming apparatus in Claim 1 wherein the attachment means is attached
22 to the second end of the shaping mandrel.

23 10. The glass coil forming apparatus in Claim 9 having an elongated stabilizing bar

1 having a first end and a second end connected so as to allow the formed glass coil to move on to the
2 stabilizing bar.

3 11 A method for forming coiled glass tubes from a source of molten glass, utilizing a
4 mandrel, attachment means for attaching to the molten glass thread, means for rotating the
5 attachment means; block means for directing the formed coil at a lateral drive point, comprised of
6 steps of:

- 7 a.. Drawing a molten glass thread from a molten glass source;
- 8 b.. Affixing the molten glass thread to the attachment means;
- 9 c.. Rotating the attachment means while drawing the molten glass thread around
10 the shaping mandrel at a lateral drive point on the block so as to essentially
11 simultaneously create a coil about the shaping mandrel while moving the
12 formed coil towards the second end of the shaping mandrel, to create a
13 plurality of continuous coils comprising a formed glass coil.

14 12. The method in Claim 11 having the additional step of adjusting the resistance to the
15 formed coil movement so as to create coils of different desired appearances.

16 13. The method in Claims 11 or 12 having the additional steps of:
17 a. Allowing the formed glass coil to cool;
18 b. Cutting the tubes to desired lengths to create beads, each having opposing cut
19 ends;
20 c. Shaping the beads as desired;
21 d. Polishing the beads as desired.

22 14. The method in Claim 13 wherein the step of polishing the beads is comprised of:
23 a. Placing the beads on their cut end on a kiln shelf in a spaced apart fashion;

1 b. Placing the kiln shelf with beads in a kiln and raising the temperature to at
2 least 1200 degrees Fahrenheit until the top of the beads draw inward leaving
3 the bead with a smaller top than bottom so as to create a conical effect;
4 c. Annealing the beads;
5 d. Cooling the beads.

6 15. The method in Claim 14 having the additional steps of:
7 a. Before annealing, first cooling the beads sufficiently to turn them over;
8 b. Reheating the beads so as to shape the top until the top draws inward to
create an essentially cylindrical shape;
9 c. Annealing the beads.

10 16. The method in Claim 15 wherein the shaping step is comprised of the following steps:
11 a. Heating the glass beads slowly with a hand torch in a uniform manner;
12 b. Heating the ends of the beads to create beads having ends tending to close in
13 around a hollow center;
14 c. Allowing the beads to cool.
15 d. Annealing the beads.

16 17. The method in Claim 17

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